

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 EB-11 ACDA-19 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

DODE-00 EURE-00 RSR-01 /121 W

----- 116842

O R 181150 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5752

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MC BRUSSELS

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

USLOSACLANT NORVA

USNMR SHAPE

USMISSION BERLIN

S E C R E T BONN 8622

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MCAP

SUBJECT: GROWING DISCUSSION OF PENTAGON STUDY

REF: STATE 111387

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1. DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER CALLED ME THIS MORNING IN SOME AGITATION TO SAY THAT HE WAS COMING UNDER STEADILY HEAVIER PRESSURE FROM THE BUNDESTAG, WITHIN THE CABINET, AND FROM THE PRESS TO PROVIDE SOME CLARIFICATION IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE ALLEGED PENTAGON STUDY REFERRED TO IN THE JUNE 7 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE BY MICHAEL GETLER. THIS TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT AT THE RECENT DPC MEETING HAD UNLEASHED MAJOR QUESTIONING OF US OBJECTIVES WHICH WAS PLACING HIM, AS A KNOWN FRIEND OF THE US AND NATO SUPPORTER, IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SATISFACTORY CLARIFICATION VIA THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD FAILED, ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY HAD REPORTED SCHLESINGER AS SAYING THAT HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS PAPER AND HAD NOT READ IT. HE NOTED THAT SCHLESINGER WAS TAKING A SUBSTANTIVE POSITION CONTRARY TO THE ALLEGED CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY. SINCE HE EXPECTS TO BE QUERIED IN THE BUNDESTAG TOMORROW ON THE SUBJECT, LEBER WONDERED WHETHER WE COULD PROVIDE ANY HELPFUL COMMENTS WHICH HE MIGHT USE.

2. DRAWING ON REFTEL, I RESPONDED THAT OUR INFORMATION WAS THAT WHILE SUCH A STUDY EXISTED, IT WAS STILL ONGOING AND INCOMPLETE AND THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS AT THIS TIME. STUDIES OF VARIOUS KINDS OF THIS SORT HAVE GONE ON BEFORE. I NOTED THAT WE HAD ALREADY GIVEN THIS INFORMATION TO DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DOUBT BUT THAT WE ARE INVOLVED IN ANOTHER OF THOSE UNFORTUNATE FLURRIES OF SPECULATION ABOUT OUR STRATEGIC THINKING AND OUR MOTIVES WHICH FEEDS UPON ITSELF. WE ARE NOW IN THE PUBLIC STAGE OF PRESS COMMENTARY BY THE PUNDITS, BUT A STRONG UNDERCURRENT OF UNEASE EXISTS AMONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND LEGISLATORS. IF WASHINGTON COULD PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON THE PENTAGON STUDY ON AN URGENT BASIS WHICH LEBER COULD USE TOMORROW MORNING (LOCAL TIME) DURING HIS BUNDESTAG APPEARANCE, THIS WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL.
HILLENBRAND

SECRET

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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